

REMARKS

The present application has been made subject to a Restriction Requirement with a mailing date of July 8, 2004. In particular, claims 1-28 are pending in the present application, and the Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-9 and 13-22, drawn to a connector and panel set, classified in class 52, subclass 780.
- II. Claims 10-12, drawn to a self-contained toy panel and connector set, classified in class 206, subclass 233.
- III. Claims 23-28, drawn to a toy set, classified in class 446, subclass 85.

Without acquiescing in the restriction or the assertions made in support thereof, Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I (claims 1-9 and 13-22). Applicant has amended claim 9 to depend on claim 1, and submits that claims 9-12, as amended, should properly be included in Group I. Claims 10-12 have been amended for consistency with the amendment of claim 9, and not for reasons of patentability. Applicant submits that claims 1-22 are related and examination of claims 1-22 would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” M.P.E.P. §803

Claims 23-28 have been cancelled without prejudice to consideration in a continuing application.

It is believed that claims 1-22, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by phone or otherwise, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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